

into contact with the deplorable conditions in Russia attacked his Allied colleagues in similar fashion.

General Wilson records in his diary that when he met

General Castelnau, the French military

Castelnau's delegate, after returning on 14th Feb-

ruary from a trip to the front, he found

the General,

"very down on his luck. He saw no way by which these Russians could take the offensive this year, and he did not believe that they could do anything before May at the earliest, and not very seriously even then. He was not impressed by their men, nor officers, nor Staff, nor by such of their lines as he had seen ; but he said that he had not been up in the front line. He thought the railways were in a hopeless mess, and, in short, he did not think they were in a position to hold the Boche divisions in front of them ; so he doubted the success of our offensive."

Two days later Wilson met Milner, and recorded :

"I find Milner in depression, tired and worried and listless. . . . Castelnau had depressed him beyond words."

General Wilson tried to cheer him up, but evidently was not successful, for he notes after a discussion with Milner, Castelnau and others of the Mission who had been comparing notes and reflections during the return

journey after the Conference that :—

■ Milner considers the defeat of the Boches in the field as impossible, and therefore he is prepared to consider terms of peace/5